

## ADDENDUM

CH-314

Bridgett-Thomas Tenant House (demolished)

Charles County, MD

Newport vic.

Cathy Currey Hardy , January 2002

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### 7. Description

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A recent field check determined that the Bridgett-Thomas Tenant House, which stood at the intersection of Bowling Drive and Newport Church Road, has been demolished.

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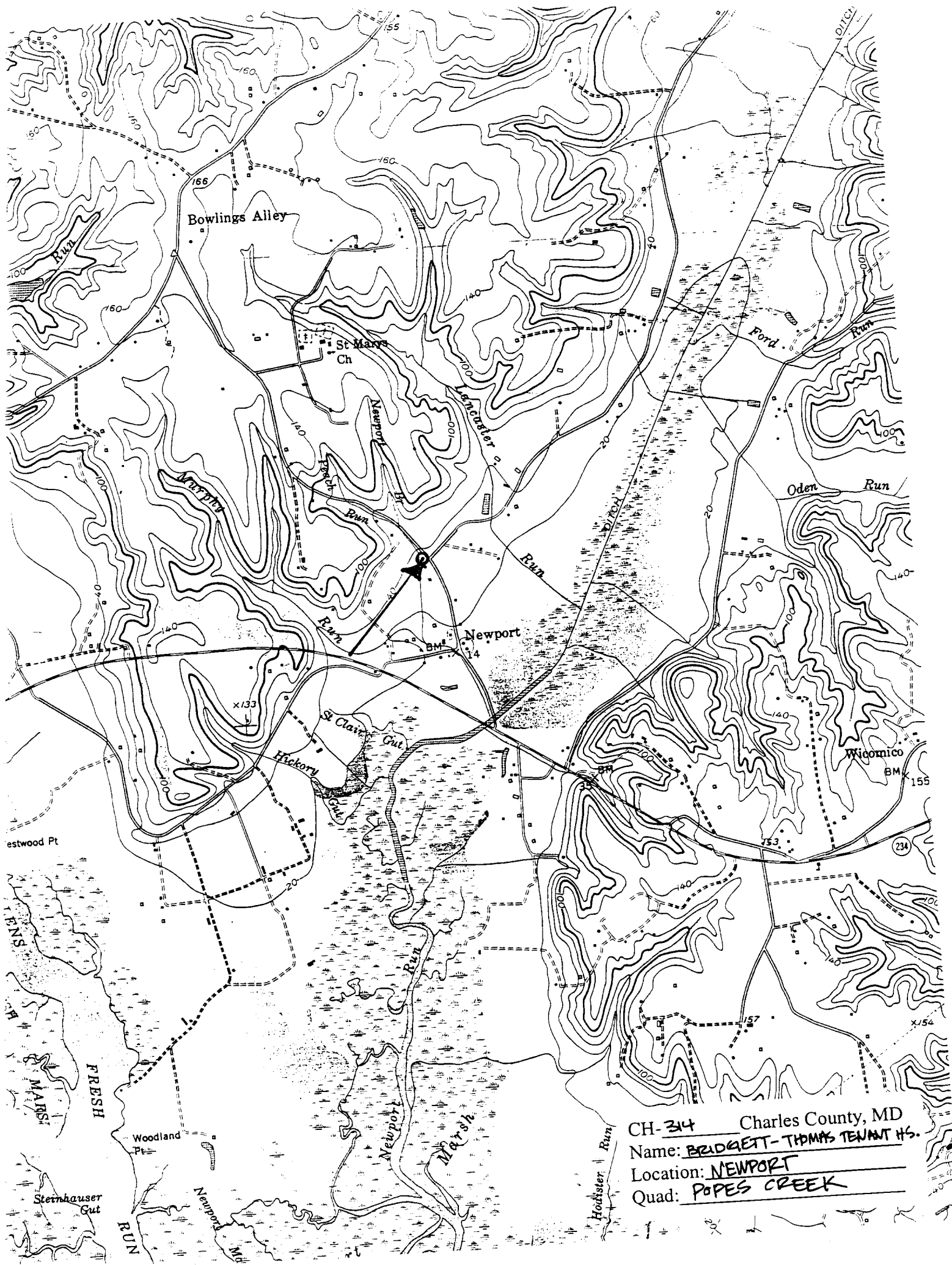
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### 10. Geographical Data

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The site of the former Bridgett-Thomas Tenant House is believed to be associated with Map 74, Parcel 1, of the Charles County Property Tax Map.



CH-314 Charles County, MD  
Name: BRIDGETT-THOMAS TENANT HS.  
Location: NEWPORT  
Quad: POPES CREEK

BRIDGETT-THOMAS TENANT HOUSE

CH-314  
Newport, Md.  
Private

1890-1910

According to local oral tradition, this two story frame house was built as a dwelling for black tenant farmers. It consists of two rooms downstairs and two up, and to the back length has been added a one story shed kitchen. The house shows the changes made in the design of household space of tenant houses and the changes in construction (from hand-made to commercial manufactured) that occurred in the last quarter of the 19th century.

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

THE BRIDGETT-THOMAS TENANT HOUSE

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

West side of Newport Church Rd.,  
0.2 mile west of Jct. of Newport Church  
Rd. and Newport Rd.

CITY, TOWN

New Port

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

4

STATE

Md.

COUNTY

Charles

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☐ BUILDING(S)☒ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

## PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

## ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☐ NO

## PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Thomas R. Bridgett

Telephone #: 934-2853

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Newport Church Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Newport

VICINITY OF

Md.

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Charles County Courthouse

Liber #: 106

Folio #: 261

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

La Plata

STATE

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

NONE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CH-314

### CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT  
☐ GOOD  
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED  
☐ RUINS  
☐ UNEXPOSED

### CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED  
☒ ALTERED

### CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE  
☐ MOVED      DATE \_\_\_\_\_

### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This 1½ story house stands beside the Newpct Church Rd. facing east towards it. The house is stark in appearance, unpainted, and poorly maintained. The front and side yards are bare of plantings. As is not infrequently the case with rural poor families who are without sanitation services the garbage from the house is thrown behind the house, in this case into a nearby creek gully. This gully is today's example of the trash heap so well beloved by archaeologists and an example too of the appearance of the area in the back of not a few fine houses in the past. For example, archaeological excavations at St. John s, the 17th century Governor's house in St. Mary's City, unearthed rich deposits of kitchen refuse thrown out the back door.

The facade is sheltered by a shed porch supported by two rectangular posts. The front length is three bays, containing a door centrally located and flanked by two windows with double hung sashes with 4 x 4 lights. Directly above the downstairs windows are smaller single sash windows with 4 lights. In each gable end is a window matching the ones in the downstairs.

The skeleton is balloon frame, supported above the ground by upright, debarked log posts. It is sheathed by overlapping weatherboards which are covered by plain trim boards at the corners. There is no basement. A small room has been added to the southwest corner of the house (rear). The A roof is covered with tin. The eaves are boxed with plain boards. The brick stove flue ascending through the center of the house appears to be original.

Inside, the two rooms downstairs are divided by a thin partition of vertical plank strips, and the walls covered horizontally with similar material. The walls are painted green in the sitting room(north), dark blue in the kitchen(south), and are for the most part bare of decoration or objects. The few pieces of furniture are strictly utilitarian and are of the inexpensive, synthetic variety sold at large discount stores. Above the sofa in the sitting room hangs a commercially manufactured tapestry of the Last Supper, similar in make to the ones of Martin Luther King flanked by Robert and John Kennedy. These tapestries are often found in the homes of rural black families throughout the South. In this home the tapestry is the most colorful decorative object downstairs. In addition to adding decoration to the drab interior, its display in a prominent position shows that the dramatic scene, and the religious values it symbolizes, are of special significance to this family.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The owner of this house could not be reached to learn of its early history, but according to its occupants and the local black informants, it has always been a tenant house for black families. It appears to have been built in the 1890's or early 20th century. It shows the changes made in the design of household space of tenant houses and the changes in construction (from handmade to commercial manufacturing) that occurred in the last quarter of the 19th century. Its present condition shows that rural poverty continues.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

George W. McDaniel, Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Md. Commission on Afro-American History &amp; Culture

DATE

STREET &amp; NUMBER

20 Dean Street

TELEPHONE

269-2893

CITY OR TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

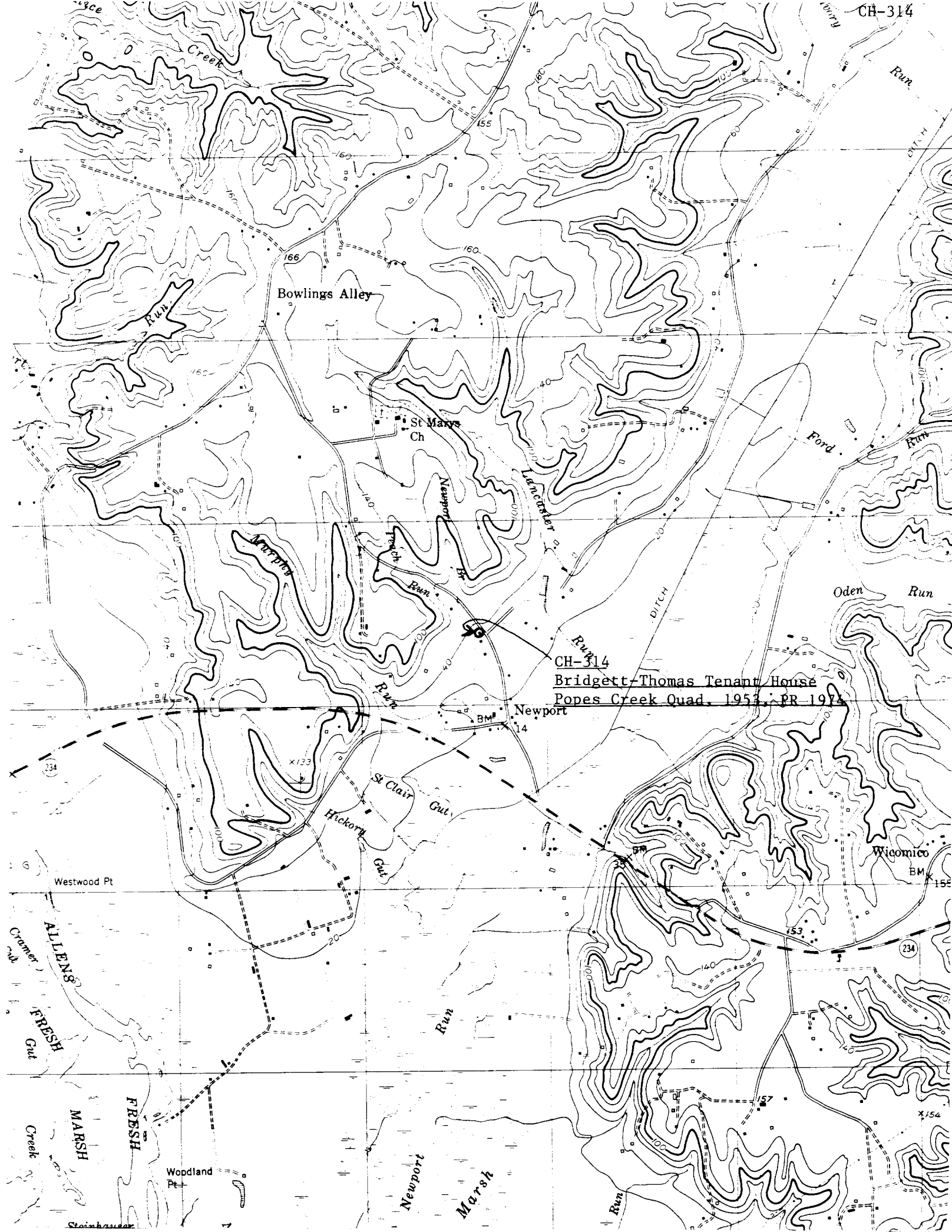
STATE

21401

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438







CH314  
Bridgett-Thomas  
Newport, Maryland  
South elevation  
GWM  
1-77



CREDIT TO  
GEORGE W. McDANIEL

CH314

Bridgett-Thomas

Newport, Maryland

Facade, Northeast view

GWM

~~XX~~ 1-77